



Year 8 Curriculum and Options Evening

Monday 29th April 2019



Towards an Outstanding Curriculum

We aspire to provide our students with a curriculum that:

- promotes and sustains a thirst for knowledge and understanding and a love of learning;
- covers a wide range of subjects;
- and provides opportunities for academic, creative and sporting excellence.

Challenge Partners Review

November 2018

'Leaders have established a clear rationale for the curriculum. Students benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum with a strong emphasis on EBacc subjects in Key Stage 4.'

'They [pupils] appreciate the subjects they are offered and the range of educational trips and opportunities that are available.'

'They [pupils] are well prepared for the next stage of their education and there are strong links with the local colleges and universities.'



The National Context

- GCSEs are linear with terminal exams
- SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) marks are included in the majority of subjects
- No coursework – some Controlled Assessment remains
- No national curriculum levels
- Significant changes to national curriculum content
- Significant emphasis on Mathematics and English
- New GCSE grading system since 2017: 9-1 replaces A*-G
- Promotion of the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

- English language *and* literature
- Maths
- Science (*at least 2* GCSE equivalent)
- Humanities - geography or history
- Modern (or ancient) foreign language

'It is the government's ambition that 75% of Year 10 pupils should be starting to study Ebacc GCSE courses by 2022, rising to 90% by 2015 ... '

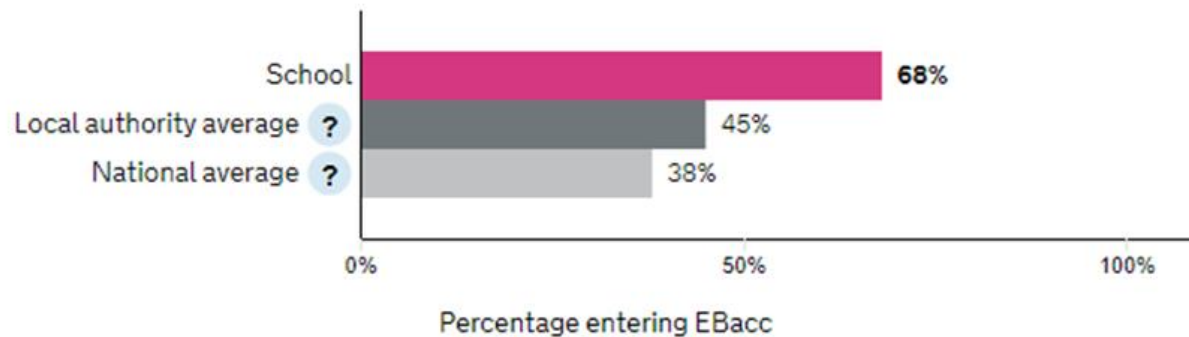
Ofsted, January 2019

Springfield 2018

Percentage entering the English Baccalaureate ?

Number of pupils = 225

[View as table](#)



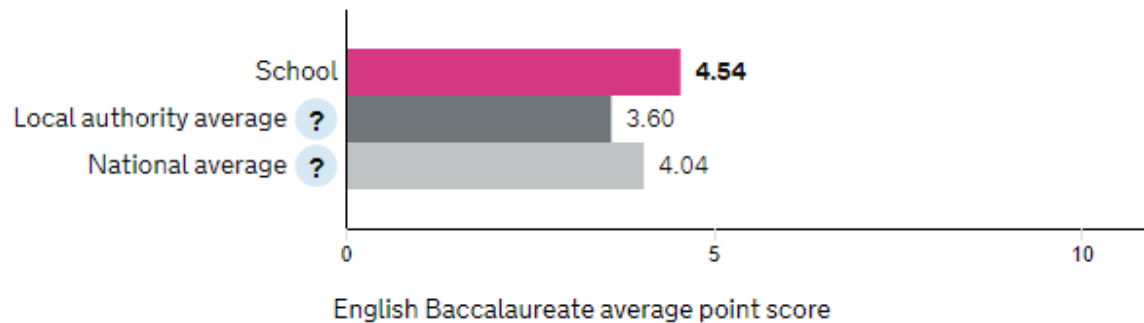
 [Explore data in detail](#)

Springfield 2018


English Baccalaureate average point score ?

Number of pupils = 225

[View as table](#)



 [Explore data in detail](#)



I think that the taster sessions should be offered during Citizenship for all subjects

I have enjoyed the independence of being able to choose my own Options without the influence of my friends or teachers

I was a bit worried when I found out that we had to take our Options in Year 8, but now because of all the information and talks, I know what I'm choosing

I agree with choosing them early because you don't have to do things you don't enjoy for another year. Instead you can get better at the things you will be doing for GCSE

...the key to good grades is to stay focussed and calm...



English and Literature:

100% linear examinations – will need lots of
timed pieces in class



Mathematics: Linear study with an increasing emphasis on functionality

Science: Pupils will study either Triple or Double Sciences in Year 11. There are a number of 'Required Practicals' to complete and apply.

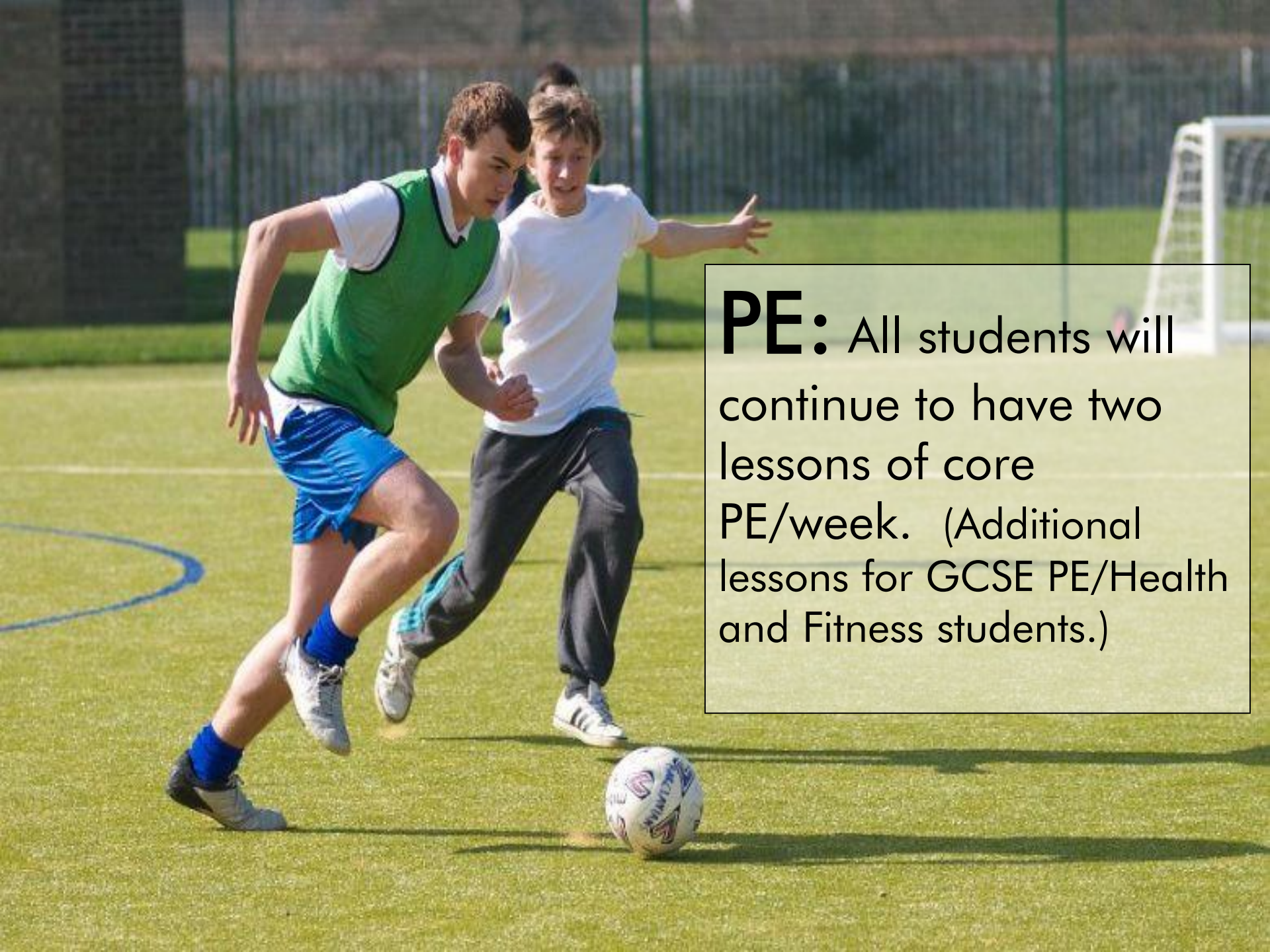


MFL: Springfield has always believed in Languages for all; this has not changed. French or German GCSE.






ICT/Computing As now, all students take an ICT qualification in Y10; some may opt for Computer Science GCSE.



PE: All students will continue to have two lessons of core PE/week. (Additional lessons for GCSE PE/Health and Fitness students.)



Expressive Arts: Students can opt for Drama, Music or Art at GCSE.

Humanities: Students will be expected to study History and/or Geography GCSE; they can also opt to study GCSE Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies).





Design Technology: Pupils can choose to study Textiles, Product Design or Food and Nutrition



Pupils can opt to choose new subjects such as Media Studies, Photography and Health and Fitness

Y8 OPTIONS 2019

Surname: _____ First Name: _____ Tutor Group: 8__

English Set: _____ Maths Set: _____ Science Set: _____ French/German Set: _____

You must now choose **one** subject from Column 1 and **two** subjects from Column 2 **OR** choose **two** subjects from Column 1 and **one** from Column 2 by putting a tick in the box next to the relevant subject. (NB: If you choose two subjects from Column 2 **only one** can be a Technology subject and **only one** can be an Art subject).

Please put a letter 'R' next to one of the subjects to indicate a reserve choice.

Column 1

Geography	
History	

Column 2

Art & Design (Art)	
Child Development	
Computer Science	
Design Technology (Product Design)	
Design Technology (Textiles)	
Drama	
Food & Nutrition (Technology)	
Media Studies	
Music	
Photography (Art)	
Philosophy & Ethics	
Sports Studies (GCSE PE or NCFE Health & Fitness)	

Parent's signature: _____

Tutor's Signature: _____

Please return this form to your Form Tutor by 7th May 2019



Terms and Conditions

- This is a preliminary choice to help us assess demand and create a timetable
- Every effort will be made to enable your son or daughter to follow the courses chosen
- Parents will be notified of any proposed changes at the appropriate stages in finalising the subjects



Key Dates 2019

- 01st April – Y8 focus day ‘Future Choices’
- 29th April – Y8 Options evening
- 07th May - Options forms in
- 03rd June – 14th June – Y8 exam/assessment weeks
- Week beginning 08th July – Progress Report 5
- July – Options confirmed

Decision Making

Pupils have already had the option process explained in Assembly and in tutor time. In these we stressed the need for:

- Not choosing a subject because their friends are doing it
- Not choosing a subject because they like the teacher
- Not choosing a subject in which they already have had difficulties – e.g. not regularly bringing their kit to PE, not bringing ingredients for Food Technology

Pupils have been encouraged to:

- Find out as much as they can about all the possible subjects – ask teachers, tutors, parents; research careers resources
- Ask subject teachers what is expected of them in the GCSE
- Engage with 'taster' activities in subjects new to them
- Engage in the 'Future Choices' focus day



How can parents help?

- Encourage your child to make positive choices based on his/her engagement and success with the subject.
- Encourage your child to consider potential career areas and what subjects may be relevant.
- Emphasise the importance of accurate 'SPAG' and good handwriting in all curriculum areas.
- Explain the importance of subjects over which there is no choice, e.g. Maths, MFL.
- 'Keep up the pressure' on homework and reading.
- Make your child aware that it is rarely possible for students to change options once the timetable is established.
- Promote the EBacc and continuous learning – 'the GCSE starts now'.



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